

Ohio Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee

Opponent Testimony on Senate Bill 215

Submitted by: Wendy Oldaker

To Chairman Hoagland, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking member Thomas and Committee Members,

I am a resident, homeowner and voter in Stark Count, OH and I oppose SB 215.

Ever since the Sandy Hook shooting, Wayne LaPierre of the NRA has been telling us that “the only way to stop a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun.” We are seeing this in society as a whole. The idea that we need more “Good Guys” with guns will stop shootings by “Bad Guys” has been thoroughly debunked by research. We have 400 million guns in this country but we lead the world in gun deaths! Our gun deaths continue to climb at alarming rates *especially here in Ohio.*

This bill would eliminate requirements for gun permits (which include background checks and training) for concealed carry. Research shows that background checks are an effective way of stopping illegal gun sales. In Ohio, since 1998, more than 81,000 gun sales were denied to convicted felons, prohibited domestic abusers, and people prohibited due to unlawful drug use. We need to be closing background checks loopholes, NOT getting rid of background checks! And people who are carrying guns in our stores, parks, movie theaters, etc, definitely need at least some training with their weapon, the more the better. I cannot think of any good reason to pass permitless carry. Even if you make some changes to this bill at Tuesday’s hearing, the basic concept of this bill would be disastrous for Ohio! It will put average Ohioans at more risk of gun violence. I urge you to stop SB 215.

Thank you,
Wendy Oldaker

